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Noble County Project Prepares Hundreds of Families

Noble County is just one of the 92 counties that receive weather radios funded through a federal grant acquired by IDHS. Approximately 277 NOAA weather radios have been distributed to residents in Noble County since 2010. Weather radios were distributed to households with low incomes, mobile home owners, the elderly and disabled persons, all of whom are statistically more likely to need help from community organizations following a disaster.

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NextLevel Jobs INDIANA

EMS Going to the NextLevel

The national EMS shortage is a concern to health care and public safety authorities around the country, and Indiana is no exception. Some estimate that Indiana may be short as many as 600 paramedics, with low pay and the highly stressful work environment cited as the main reasons for the shortage.

The good news is that a new state initiative aims to alleviate the worker shortage within many professions, including EMS. Governor Holcomb's NextLevel Jobs, launched in August, aims to provide training reimbursement to prospective employees and focuses on high-demand jobs in high-priority industries. NextLevel Jobs will reimburse EMS employers up to \$2,500 for the cost of training new EMS professionals, with a cap of \$25,000 per employer. For prospective EMS trainees, the program requires Indiana residency and U.S. citizenship, with at least a high school diploma or GED but less than a college degree. Training must be more than 40 hours and less than 14 weeks, and new hires must be trained, hired and retained for at least six months in order for the employer to qualify for the training reimbursement.

The state's easy to use [NextLevel Jobs website](#) serves as both an information tool for employers and a matching site for Hoosiers interested in training or education. EMS providers are encouraged to take advantage of this program to meet the emergency medical needs of Hoosiers and to relieve the shortage within this life-saving profession.

Thirteen Students Receive Indiana Homeland Security Scholarships

Thirteen Indiana students who volunteer in public safety organizations will receive Secure Indiana Scholarships from the Indiana Homeland Security Foundation. A total of \$26,000 will be awarded for their 2017-18 college education.

This service-oriented scholarship rewards ambitious students for their ability to work and learn from EMS professionals. Each student receiving a scholarship attends an Indiana college, is pursuing a degree in a safety- or health-related major and has volunteer experience at a public safety organization such as a police or fire department, emergency medical service or emergency management agency. These students impact their communities by fostering a relationship with local emergency service personnel and applying their skills to real-world scenarios and responsibilities. The funding

for these scholarships was provided through purchases of [“Secure Indiana” license plates](#).

“By donating to the Indiana Homeland Security Foundation, people are doing two important things: They are helping save lives with funds that buy life-saving equipment at the local level, and they are improving the lives of amazing college students, by helping them with scholarships,” said Steve Cain, chair of the Indiana Homeland Security Foundation Board. “The Foundation is honored to provide scholarships to students who consider safety and the condition of others a top priority.”

For more information on the Secure Indiana Scholarships, visit dhs.in.gov/foundationsscholarship.htm.

Scholarship recipients and their hometowns, Indiana colleges,

majors and volunteer experience are listed below:

Cameron Owens, Francesville, Ball State University-Criminal justice/criminology, Volunteered at Francesville Volunteer Fire Department

Jackson Shepherd, North Vernon, Franklin College-Criminal justice, Volunteered at Jennings County Probation Department

Edward Scott, Columbia City, Indiana Tech Ft. Wayne-Emergency response management, Volunteered at Columbia Township Volunteer Fire Department

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State Fire Marshal, IDHS Lead Statewide Fire Prevention Week

State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson visited Madison Jr. High School to discuss fire prevention as part of a statewide effort to promote fire safety. Greeson talked with the students, led the school in a fire drill and handed out smoke alarms and other fire safety information.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security and the State Fire Marshal use Fire Prevention Week each year to remind Hoosiers to take precautions to prevent fires and to be prepared in the event of a fire.



Indiana Approves Modernized Communication Network for Public Safety

Indiana becomes the 25th state to approve the FirstNet plan that will provide a modernized communication network for public safety and first responders.

On Wednesday, Oct. 11, Governor Eric J. Holcomb announced that Indiana will opt in to the nationwide public broadband network deployment plan offered by FirstNet and AT&T. The plan will build a modern, high-speed, wireless communication infrastructure for the state's public safety workers and first responders at no cost to taxpayers.

"Indiana's first responders need fast, accurate information to keep Hoosiers safe," said Governor Holcomb. "This new communications network will help those on the front lines coordinate better and faster to serve and protect our citizens and communities."

FirstNet was established by federal law in 2012. The law gives states and territories the choice to either opt in and accept the FirstNet plan allowing AT&T to build the infrastructure at no cost to the state—or opt out of the FirstNet plan and take on full responsibility for building and maintaining the infrastructure.

The effort is a significant investment in the communications infrastructure that public safety needs for day-to-day operations, securing large events and disaster response and recovery. The ability to communicate seamlessly across jurisdictions is critical for law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services (EMS).



FirstNet worked collaboratively with the state's Integrated Public Safety Commission (IPSC) to address Indiana's needs and concerns. Since 2012, IPSC has been traveling the state to educate and gather input and feedback from public safety professionals about the FirstNet plan for Indiana. Through this close collaboration and help from AT&T, a plan was crafted to meet Indiana's unique communications needs, including expanding rural coverage beyond what is currently available and offering services at compelling prices.

"This network will prevent communication difficulties and inefficiencies in times of crisis and confusion," IPSC Executive Director David Vice said. "Indiana has conducted an unprecedented effort to reach out to public safety officials and decision makers across the state to ensure FirstNet is right for our state."

For opt-in states, AT&T will build the infrastructure at no cost. Local public safety and first responder entities will pay subscription fees

to access the infrastructure. Aggressive pricing will be available through the state Quantity Purchase Agreement (QPA), which is in the process of being revised. Participation in the network is voluntary.

Twenty-seven other states have allowed AT&T to develop the public safety network within their states: Virginia, Wyoming, Arkansas, Kentucky, Iowa, New Jersey, West Virginia, New Mexico, Michigan, Maine, Montana, Arizona, Kansas, Nevada, Hawaii, Alaska, Tennessee, Nebraska, Maryland, Texas, Minnesota, Alabama, Idaho, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and South Carolina.

Union Community Fire Department Gets a New Fire Truck

The Union Community Fire Department, located in the small community of Union in Pike County, closed in 2012 due to budget and other issues. In 2015 a group came together and was able to successfully restart the department. In late 2016 the department was able to make its first emergency run and has since made an additional 15 runs.

Clay Township trustees purchased a fire truck from a department in Central Indiana for just \$1. Several Southwest Indiana departments volunteered their time to clean, wax and donate needed parts, and they were able to unveil a new fire truck to the Union Community Fire Department.

The delivery of the truck happened on October 28 during Union's planned Trunk-or-Treat event.



Thirteen Students Receive Indiana Homeland Security Scholarships (continued from page 2)

Alexandra Danielides, Whiting, Indiana University Bloomington-Speech pathology, Volunteered at City of Whiting Fire Department

Christopher Bell, Tipton, Indiana University Kokomo-Pre-chiropractic, Volunteered at Tipton County Emergency Management

Nathaniel Busenbark, Crawfordsville, IUPUI-Paramedic science and public safety, Volunteered at Crawfordsville Fire Department

Brooklyn England, New Ross, IUPUI and Ivy Tech-Paramedic science and nursing, Volunteered at Crawfordsville Fire Department

Josiah Clark, Woodburn, Ivy Tech Ft. Wayne-Paramedic science, Volunteered at Woodburn Fire Department

Kori Wood, Kokomo, Ivy Tech Kokomo-Homeland security, Volunteered at Howard County Emergency Management

Krista Padgett, Frankfort, Ivy Tech Lafayette-Nursing, Volunteered at Perry Township Volunteer Fire Department

Michael Graham, West Lafayette, Purdue University-Cyber forensics, Volunteered at Wabash Township Volunteer Fire

Department

Tyler Mauder, Spencer, Vincennes University-Fire science and homeland security, Volunteered at Owen Valley Fire Department

Zachary Taylor, Tell City, Vincennes University-Homeland security, Volunteered at Perry County Emergency Management

IDHS Information Technology Gives Tech Tips at EMAI, Announces WebEOC Google Group

By Graham Jessiman, Senior Business Systems Consultant

A big “thank you” to those of you who attended our “pick and mix” training on the Tuesday afternoon preceding the EMAI Conference at the Marriott East in Indianapolis. Your feedback is appreciated and noted, and we hope the time you spent was worthwhile.

In his presentation during the conference, IDHS Chief Information Officer Chuck Emsweller highlighted the fact that state agencies such as INDOT, FSSA and the BMV generally have “hard lines” back into the state network and suggested that county EMAs might pursue a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for use of those networking

facilities in times of disaster. He also outlined the IDHS vision for the future in making critical decision-making information more readily available to local agencies as our internal systems are reworked.

Roger Koelpin and Ashlee Moore, the IDHS GIS team, have put together a number of GIS resources known as Falcons (also known as Flex Viewers or JavaScript Viewers), some of which were demonstrated during the EMAI conference, and are readily available within WebEOC.

As part of our outreach program, we have created a Google Group

named “Indiana WebEOC User Group” (<https://groups.google.com/forum/#forum/indiana-webeoc-user-group>). If you have a Google account, you can request access to this group. This is **YOUR** forum to share tips and ideas, and we will use it to elicit feedback on proposed changes.

Noble County Project Prepares Hundreds of Families (Continued from page 1)

“Our goal is that all persons living within Noble County are able to receive timely weather warning to protect their families and themselves. Noble County continues to reach out to persons who qualify in order to make Noble County a safe community to live in for everyone,” said Noble County Emergency Management Deputy Director Terresa Griffiths. “We appreciate being able to help and support our citizens and thank IDHS for their supplying the weather alert radios.”

Each radio offers a wide range of alerts, updates from the National

Weather Service and battery backup power. All-hazard radios give Hoosier families the tools to be better prepared for severe weather.

The 2017 county EMA weather radio records are being reviewed in preparation for the 2018 distribution.



New Programs Protect Mental Health of Emergency Responders

A recent survey conducted with over 4,000 first responders from Missouri, Texas, Oregon, Colorado, California and Nevada concluded that 6.6 percent had attempted suicide, which is more than 10 times the rate of the general population. On average, emergency responders are more likely to develop depression, stress disorders and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) following disaster responses.

Due to the many individuals who experience the impacts of poor mental health, national training programs such as Psychological Simple Triage And Rapid Treatment (PsySTART) as well as Anticipate, Plan, Deter (APD) have

been adapted to local and state level institutions. Both programs have had a positive impact on emergency personnel and emergency responders. PsySTART is a mental health triage system that is primarily focused on citizens and encourages individuals to build resiliency before, during and after a disaster. APD teaches emergency responders proper ways to identify stressors and practice self-care before, after and during an emergency. Both program open the door to developing ways for responders to increase resilience to prior to any incoming stressors.

“It’s important to remember that

you will be exposed to difficult situations,” said IDHD EMS District Manager Mikel Fort. “Exposure at times will be traumatic, but mostly cumulative. Responders tend to be resilient, but not immune. You should be informed and be prepared.”

For more information on mental triage programs, contact Mikel Fort at Mfort@dhs.in.gov.

Lake County CERT Training

Lake County Emergency Management Agency collaborated with Purdue University Northwest to conduct several days of CERT training for local agencies, as well as Purdue staff. The course lasted for three days in October and November with a total of 31 students attending.

Students were taught the basic training materials and concepts for CERT, along with an additional lesson conducted by the Purdue University Northwest Police Department about the use of Stryker evacuation chairs. Local police needed to use the Stryker chairs recently during a power outage, and the lesson prepared attendees for emergency evacuations.

“The goal for partnering with Purdue Northwest and Purdue Westville is to train Purdue staff so they are more prepared to mitigate planned events, emergencies and disasters, while they await the first responders to arrive,” said Jodi Richmond, Lake County EMA director.



Top: Cribbing Exercise
CERT Class, November
2017
Bottom: Head to toe
assessment, CERT Class

State Fire Marshal Encourages Hoosiers to Practice Heating Safety

As the winter months descend upon Hoosiers, State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson is encouraging community fire departments to reach out to citizens on how to be responsible with their heating choices this winter season.

“Heating equipment is involved in one out of every six home fires during the winter months,” says Greeson. “More home fires occur in winter than any other season, and it is my hope that local fire departments will help encourage residents to consider safe heating methods this winter. There are many things Hoosiers can do before using alternative heating, but if they must use space heaters or other forms of alternative heating, I want them to take the appropriate precautions.”

Alternative Heating

Space heaters should always be kept away from loose or flammable objects such as clothing, curtains, bedding and furniture.

- There should be at least a three-foot perimeter around space heaters at all times.
- Do not leave space heaters on in unoccupied rooms.
- Choose space heaters with an automatic off switch.
- Only one space heater should be plugged into each electrical outlet.
- Turn off space heaters and other alternative heating appliances before leaving home or going to bed.

Appliances such as an oven should not be used for heating. Using gas ovens as a heating option can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning, and using either a gas or electric oven for heat is a waste of energy and causes additional wear and tear on the appliance.

Fireplaces and Wood Stoves

While fireplaces and wood burning stoves can be wonderful in the winter, proper maintenance to the chimney is important for home safety. Chimneys collect burning substances and develop creosote buildup. Creosote is highly flammable, and in large quantities, can result in a chimney fire.

To prevent creosote build-up in a chimney:

- Use seasoned wood – wood that has been split for at least six months.
- Avoid overstocking the fireplace or stove with wood. Overcrowding can contribute to creosote build-up.
- Avoid restricting air supply.

Here are some tips to help prevent these fires at home:

- Have the chimney checked by a professional before use and have it cleaned if needed.
- Have your chimney cleaned annually.
- Make sure the professional who inspects the chimney looks for cracks and loose bricks.
- Keep the outdoor area near the chimney clear. Trees and branches should be at least 15 feet away.
- Fires should always be extinguished before going to bed or leaving home for any period of time.

Local fire departments are encouraged to reach out with any questions or needs.

For more information on safe alternative heating, visit GetPrepared.in.gov.

Plan Now for Holiday Season Outreach

The holiday season is underway, and it's a perfect time for emergency management professionals to reinforce safety precautions for Hoosiers.

Fire Safety

The winter months, November through February, is when Indiana historically has seen the highest percentage of fire deaths. Alternative heating, holiday decorations and unattended cooking are some of the chief culprits of fires during this time of year.

It is important to continue reminding Hoosiers to install and test smoke alarms, have a plan of escape and continue to practice

home fire safety throughout the winter months.

For more information on fire safety, including fact sheets, visit GetPrepared.in.gov.

Ready: Whenever. Wherever.

The Grinch is alive and well during the holiday season, with State Farm Insurance reporting last year that December is the biggest month for theft claims.

Consider encouraging residents to take steps to make themselves and their purchases more secure:

- Never leave valuables visible to outsiders looking in, whether in a car or a home.
- Limit the information you share on social media, especially about travel or new possessions in the home.
- Maintain online accounts by occasionally updating passwords.

For more information about the Ready: Whenever. Wherever. program, which educates Hoosiers on how to live life more safely, visit GetPrepared.in.gov.

More than 565,000 Hoosiers Registered to Participate in 2017 ShakeOut

More than 565,000 Hoosiers registered to participate in the 2017 Great Central U.S. ShakeOut earthquake drill – more than any other state in the Central U.S. region.

The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut is an opportunity for participants from Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma and Tennessee to practice earthquake preparedness. More than 2.7 million people in the Central U.S. registered for this year's ShakeOut, and worldwide registrations topped 55 million.

Indiana is exposed to a serious threat of earthquakes along the New Madrid Seismic Zone – located 180 miles southwest of Evansville – and the Wabash

Valley Seismic Zone, which encompasses parts of Southeastern Illinois and Southwestern Indiana.

Practicing what to do ahead of time is critical to earthquake safety, and the ShakeOut educates participants on how to get prepared. In the event of an earthquake, Hoosiers should drop, take cover under a sturdy object like a desk or table and hold on until the shaking stops. Those unable to drop due to a disability or other condition should get as low as possible and protect the head and neck.

Because long periods of time can pass between severe, damaging earthquakes, it can be easy to become complacent. Nobody knows when a major earthquake will occur, which makes

preparation – particularly the work of emergency preparedness officials – even more critical.

Indiana's participants came from local, state and federal government organizations, K-12 schools, colleges and universities, public libraries, businesses, health care facilities and county emergency management agencies, among others.

IDHS thanks all emergency responders who participated in the 2017 Great Central U.S. ShakeOut for doing their part to help Hoosiers get prepared for earthquakes.

Debris Management Class Taught in Brownsburg

Emergency management professionals from Indiana attended a debris management class on October 16 and 17 at the Brownsburg Fire Department.

The class, which was taught by partners from the Army Corps of Engineers, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, focused on the need for emergency management professionals to have a debris management plan and the

different information that needs to be included in those plans. When developing a debris management plan, it is important to discuss potential sites where debris management may be needed following an event or incident, historical and environmental considerations while cleaning up debris, insurance and deductibles and the rules and guidelines to acquire federal reimbursement.

As part of the class, participants also learned how emergency management professionals can develop a public information plan for debris management activities that will help inform citizens on what is being done in their area.

Representatives from many different state and local agencies, among other partners, attended the two-day class.

Save the Date
Preparing Together: Aviation Disaster Planning, Response, and Recovery Conference
 11 - 12 September 2018 | Indianapolis, IN
 @preparein
 #prepinav

What: A committee of local Indianapolis industry leaders, aviation crisis management experts, and Indiana state government officials have developed a conference focused on improving outcomes for those affected by an aviation disaster or critical incident.

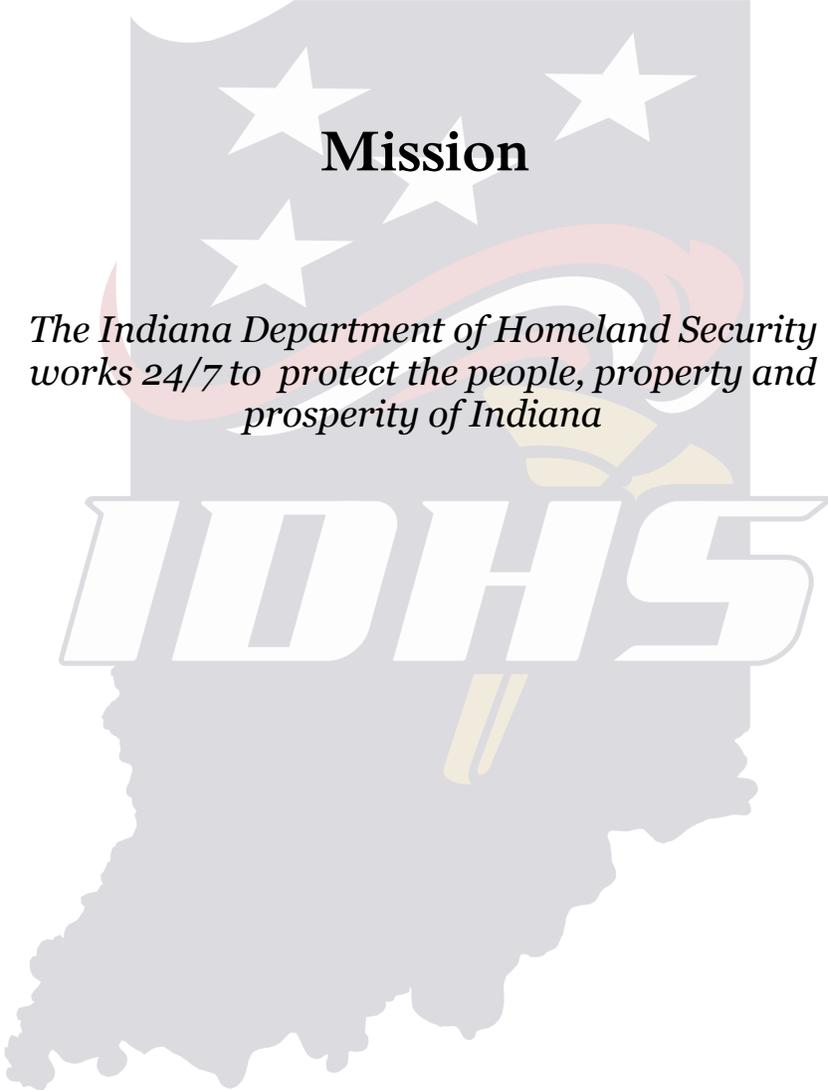
The **Preparing Together: Aviation Disaster Planning, Response, and Recovery Conference** is an educational forum exploring the intersection of federal regulations and local responsibilities following an aircraft disaster. This conference is being offered in conjunction with the 2018 Indiana Emergency Response Conference.

The aviation conference will focus on:

- Federal laws and guidance documents for aviation disaster response
- Roles, processes and response timelines of agencies involved
- The interrelationship of responding agencies' roles
- The Family Assistance Center, Passenger Gathering Area, and Friends and Relatives Center
- Lessons learned from other major aircraft accidents and airport incidents
- Expectations and resources for business aviation, air medical and private aviation disasters
- How the aviation disaster assistance model can apply to other critical incidents
- How interagency cooperation is essential to recovery

Who: This conference is for individuals and organizations who would respond to a major aircraft accident and those who provide victim assistance, including airports (commercial, general aviation, military), commercial air carriers, business aviation operators, air medical transport, emergency response agencies (fire, EMS, law enforcement), local and state government, medical examiners/coroners, hospitals and healthcare organizations, American Red Cross, non-government disaster response agencies, mental health professionals and other interested groups.

For more information: <http://www.createaresilientcommunity.com/>



Mission

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security works 24/7 to protect the people, property and prosperity of Indiana

IDHS

Contact

The Hoosier Responder is a publication of
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